I. *A Deſcription of a* Roman *Sudatory, or* Hypocauſtum, *found at* Wroxeter *in* Shropſhire, Anno 1701. *By Mr* John Lyſter. *Communicated to the Royal Society by* John Harwood, *LL. D. and F. R. S.*

ABout 40 Perches diſtant North from a ruinous Wall, call'd the *Old-Work of Wroxeter*, once *Uriconium*, a famous City in *Shropſhire*, in a piece of Arable Land, in the Tenure of Mr *Bennet*, he obſerved, that altho theſe Fields had formerly been fertilized and made very rich by the Flames and Deſtruction of the City, yet a ſmall Square Parcel thereof to be fruitleſs, and not to be improved by the beſt Manure. He then gueſſing the Cauſe of Sterility to be underneath, ſent his Men to dig and ſearch into it; but the Soil being then unſown, caus'd them to miſtake, and ſearch in a wrong place; where they happen'd upon Bottoms of old Walls, buried in their own Rubbiſh, (being ſuch as are often found in thoſe Fields;) and the Inhabitants digging one of them up, for the benefit of the Building-Stone, were thereby guided to the Weſtern Corner of the ſaid unprofitable Spot of Land: Where they found (near the Foundation) a little Door-place, which, when cleanſed, gave Entrance into the Vacancy of a ſquare Room, walled about, and floor'd under and over, with ſome Aſhes and Earth therein.

This was built in times paſt (as ſome ſuppoſe) for a *Sudatory*, or *Sweating-houſe* for *Roman* Souldiers; being ſet with 4 Ranks of ſmall Brick Pillars, 8 inches ſquare, and laid in a ſtrong ſort of very fine Red Clay; each Pillar being

being founded upon a foot ſquare Quarry of Brick; and upon the head of every Pillar was fixed a large Quarry of 2 foot ſquare, hard almoſt as Flint, as moſt of thoſe *Roman* Bricks are, and within as Red as Scarlet, and fine as Chalk. Theſe Pillars were to ſupport a double Floor, made of very ſtrong Mortar, mixed with courſe Gravel, and bruiſed or broken Bricks: The firſt of theſe Floors was laid upon the large Quarries, and, when dry, the ſecond Floor was laid upon it.

But firſt there was a Range or Rank of Tunnel-Bricks, fixt with Iron cramps up to the Wall within, with their lower ends level with the under ſides of the broad Quarries, and their upper ends with the ſurface of the upper Floor; and every Tunnel had alike 2 oppoſite Mortice-holes, one on either ſide, cut through for a croſs paſſage to diſperſe the Heat amongſt them all. The Form of the whole will be better underſtood by inſpecting the Figures.

Explanation of the Figures.

Fig. 1. A. B. C. D. is the Ground Plat, on which the Pillars of Brick ſtand.

Fig. 2. E. F. is one of the ſaid Bricks; which are in Numb. 24.

Fig. 3. G. H. I. K. is the Ceiling of Square Tiles, which lye upon the Heads of the ſquare Pillars.

Fig. 4. L. M. N. O. P. Q. is the Sweating-Houſe, in Perſpective, ſhewing in part the Manner of the Floors and Pillars as they were placed.

Fig. 5. R. S. T. U. is the double Floor, whoſe upper ſurface lies even with the tops of the Flews in the Perſpective Draught.

Fig. 6. W. X. Is one of the Flews, or Tunnel-Bricks.

Tab : 1 -

f : 5 -

f : 7 -

f : 6 -

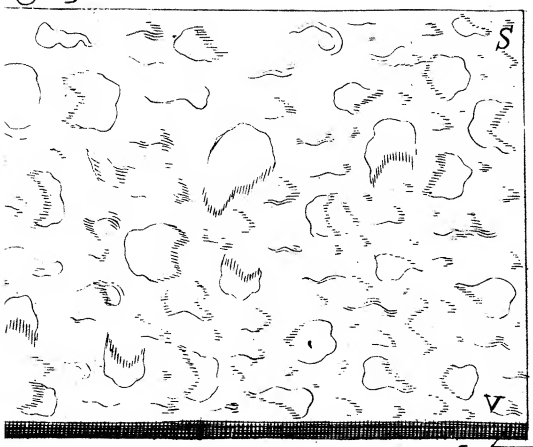
Fig : 1 -

Tab : 2

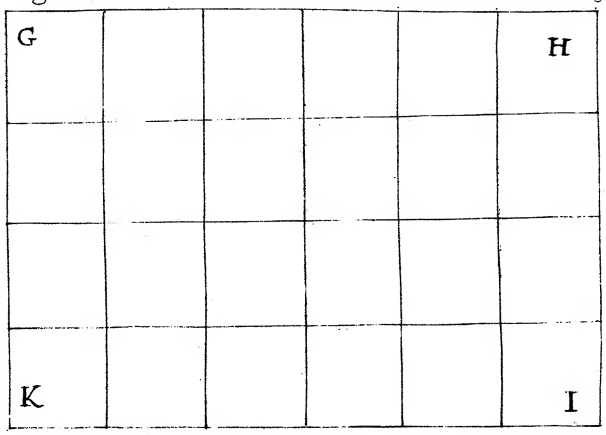
Ph : Tr : N° : 306

Feet

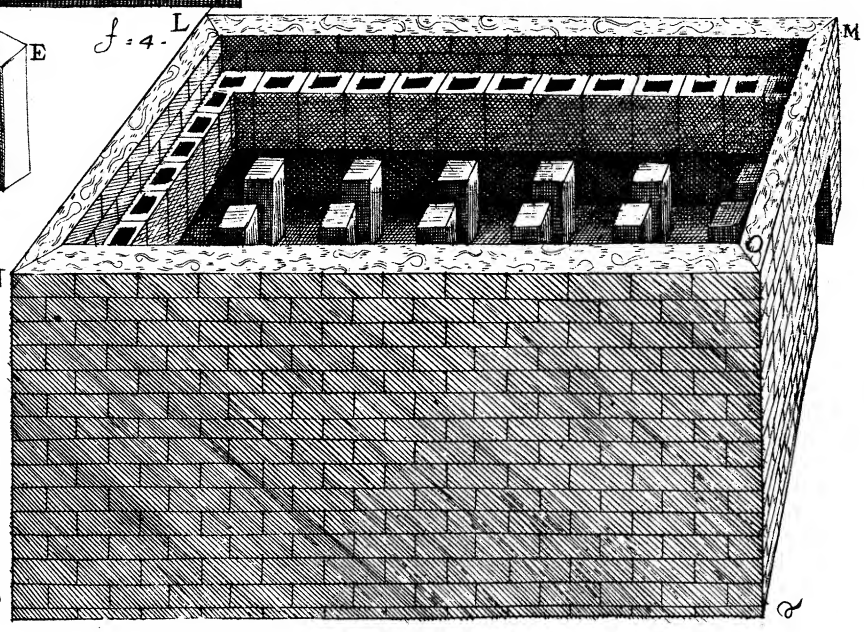
f: 5.



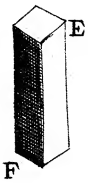
f: 3.

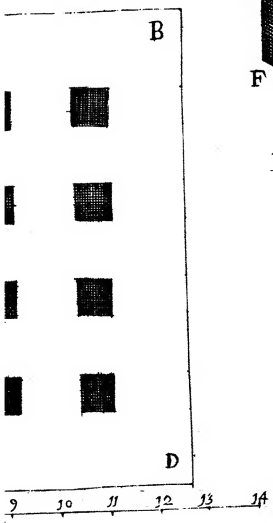


f: 4.



f: 2.





Tab. 1

Fig. 7

Y

Z

Fig. 8

W

X

Fig. 1

A

B

C

D

Fig. 2

E

F

Fig. 4

L

M

N

O

Fig. 3

G

H

K

I

Fig. 5

S

T

Phil. Trans. act. N° 306

Tab. 2

Phil. Tr. N° 306